Economic Data

Economics

Where economic data comes from, and how much to trust it.

Sources and cautions.

Sources

- Surveys of households and firms
- Administrative and tax records
- Census enumeration
- Transaction and scanner data
- Satellite and alternative sources

Cautions

- Early estimates are revised substantially
- Definitions change between series
- Informal activity is poorly captured
- Cross-country comparability is limited

> GDP revisions frequently exceed the size of the change being reported. Treat a first estimate as provisional.